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A Message from the Dean

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Indiana University School of Law

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

ALFRED C. AMAN, JR.

For the past several years, we have been hard at work on our Capital Campaign for this Law School. We are making steady progress toward building a solid foundation for the future. During these past few years, the School has strengthened its faculty by retaining its most prized professors in the face of fierce outside competition, while simultaneously recruiting several outstanding new additions to the faculty. Thus far, we have been able to weather the recent storm of declining applications to law schools across the country, even managing to slightly improve the quality of our Fall 1996 entering class during a year in which the national applicant pool for law schools declined by more than 10 percent. This year's challenge is even greater than last year.

The next few years will be crucial ones for the Law School. Our goal is nothing less than to gain recognition by leading legal educators, lawyers and judges as one of the premier law schools in the United States. To do this, we must continue to strengthen our position vis-a-vis our peer schools with regard to admissions, faculty, technology and curriculum. We believe that with the foundation the Capital Campaign can provide, these goals are possible.

We are very encouraged by the substantive progress we have made over the past year concerning these key areas of the Law School. At this time last year, we were in the midst of preparing a Self-Study Report for purposes of ABA/AALS site inspection and re-accreditation (a process that, for law schools, occurs every seven years). Our site inspection took place in September 1996, and the report by the commit-

tee affirmed our beliefs that we are making steady progress. We have heard nothing but positive comments from the members of the committee who visited the Law School. Moreover, the Law School continues to gain recognition for the strength and productivity of its faculty; a recent empirical study by the Chicago-Kent Law Review, published in 1996, revealed that the IU Law School currently ranks 12th among all U.S. public law schools in faculty productivity, and—measured in terms of the average number of articles per faculty member published in law journals—now ranks 27th overall (out of a total of 177 U.S. law schools).

At the same time, we are not content with where we stand, and many significant challenges still lie ahead of us. In times like the present, when competition for top students and top faculty is increasing, we cannot stand still. We have therefore developed, over the course of the past several years, a set of ambitious strategic plans designed to help us achieve our goal of top twenty status in each of the categories mentioned above—faculty, students, technology and curriculum.

To achieve our goals, we are refocusing our attention, our energies, and our resources on the following five key areas:

(1) Increase the visibility of the faculty and create new endowment funds for the support of distinguished professors.

In order to reach our goal, we must continue to improve on an already strong, distinguished and productive faculty, and we must do so in a manner that raises our visibility so that our faculty



Dean Aman

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members can gain the national and international recognition they deserve. During the past year, our faculty has published four new books and more than fifty articles and book chapters on topics ranging from *Limits: The Role of the Law in Bioethical Decision Making* (a new book by Professor Roger Dworkin, published by Indiana University Press), to "Cybersex: Regulating Sexually Explicit Expression on the Internet" (an article by Professor Fred Cate in a leading interdisciplinary journal, *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*), to "The Militia Movement and Second Amendment Revolution: Conjuring with the People" (an article by Professor David Williams in the *Cornell Law Review*). In 1996-97, Law School faculty members have also advised United Nations and Congressional committees and task forces, served as volunteer counsel in U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of

Appeals, and Indiana Supreme Court cases, refereed leading interdisciplinary and international academic journals and presented papers by invitation at major national and international conferences.

(2) Attract more top-quality law students through increases in both merit- and need-based financial aid, as well as significant improvements in our Career Services Office, while maintaining our long-standing commitment to diversity in legal education and the expansion of opportunities for minorities in the legal profession.

Over the next several years, it is crucial that we attract a student body comparable in quality to that of the top U.S. law schools. This will be possible only if we are competitive when it comes to scholarship funds. The competition for top law students is more intense than ever before. The national applicant pool of prospective law students has dwindled. Our decline in applications, however, is comparable to the national averages; there was a nationwide 10 percent decrease in the law school applicant pool last year. This year looks no better; according to the Law School Admission Council, there is currently an 11 percent decline in the number of applicants to Law School.

To combat these trends and move the quality of our entering class in the right direction, we are involving more Law School faculty, students and alumni in our recruiting efforts through increased telephone and mail contacts with applicants, in an effort to improve our yield. We have attended more law forums, prelaw days, and professional school conferences. We have pro-

duced an aggressive recruitment brochure that we have mailed throughout the state and nationally. These efforts, coupled with our strategic plan to provide an infusion of resources into fellowships and other means of student recruitment, will enable us to make progress toward our goal.

“Over the next several years, it is crucial that we attract a student body comparable in quality to that of the top U.S. law schools.”

(3) Continue to stake our claim as a national leader in specific substantive areas at the cutting edge of legal scholarship through ambitious programs and initiatives such as the Global Legal Studies Program, the Law and Society Program, the JD-MPA and JD-MSES joint degree programs with the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and a proposed new joint degree program under development with the Telecommunications Department.

Although the recruitment of high-quality students must be a top funding priority over the next few years, we intend to use whatever means may be available to us to continue staking our claim as a law school that is at the forefront of legal education. In our Self-Study Report, we identified three major areas that we believe to be at the “cutting edge” of legal scholarship, and for which we are already recognized as a national and international leader: (1) Global Legal Studies, (2) Law and Society interdisciplinary research and teaching, and (3) Law and Tech-

nology, especially in the specific areas of Environmental, Communications and Information Law. Focusing on these three areas, in which the Law School already enjoys an excellent reputation, we plan to promote excellence through selective investments in academic programs and thereby ensure that we maintain our reputation as an institution that encourages its faculty and students to expand the frontiers of knowledge by supporting cutting-edge research.

(4) Develop new sources of revenue to support key academic programs through our ongoing Capital Campaign, while at the same time increasing the amount of money raised during our Annual Fund drive and revamping our internal budget and accounting system to enable us to make wiser and more effective use of our existing and future resources.

We realize, of course, that the ambitious plans we have made to be clearly recognized by the leaders in legal education, the bar and the bench as a top tier American law school will require a substantial commitment of resources. Over the past year, we have implemented a series of administrative and programmatic changes designed to improve our fund-raising abilities. In addition, we have spent considerable time and energy on a redesign of our internal budget and accounting systems to enable us to make better use of our existing and future resources. These changes will, over time, allow us to reach our desired goals even in a period of declining state support for higher education.

We have been able to sustain a steady pace toward achieving our Capital Campaign goal of

\$15 million. To date, almost \$13 million has been raised/pledged as a part of the campaign. Nevertheless, it must be emphasized that the Capital Campaign will not provide immediate help for the Law School; rather, it is building a foundation for the future, since a majority of the gifts are deferred.

With respect to our Annual Fund, this was a transitional year, and clearly there is still much work to be done. In 1997, we intend to develop a marketing campaign for the Annual Fund and continue to educate all of our alumni about the importance of our Annual Fund revenues.

“Computer technology has become an integral part of all aspects of our program.”

(5) Maintain our current competitive edge in technology by expanding our use of the Internet and World Wide Web for research, teaching, and service, and by developing our capabilities to deliver distance education to students in Indiana and around the world.

Twenty years ago, the first computer was brought into the Law School. Since then, enormous changes have occurred. Computer technology has become an integral part of all aspects of our program: assisting faculty and students in the classroom and in research; providing essential information and services for offices like Admissions and Career Services; making the Law Library more accessible; providing access to important Indiana judicial decisions to all citizens of Indiana; and facilitating the administration of the Law School.

In the area of technology, the Law School has succeeded in establishing itself as a leader among its peer institutions, setting the standards for quality technological services and innovative

instructional applications. Through partnerships with state offices, the Law School is bringing a broad scope of legal information to people in Indiana, across the nation, and around the world.

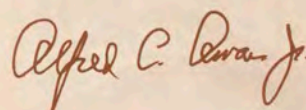
The focal point of the Law School's technology program is its IU Law web site, on which a wide range of initiatives are anchored. For its innovative delivery and valuable content, the Law School has been recognized three times in recent months. During the first six days of February 1997, the IU Law web site handled 154,080 transactions from 15,818 distinct Internet hosts in 35 countries; in 1996, the Law School's IU Law web site handled in excess of 2,000,000 transactions from around the world, and this is likely to double in the current year. These statistics reveal the worldwide impact of the IU Law web site. Through the text, images and RealAudio programs contained on the IU Law web site, the Law School's publications and activities are made available to a global audience, advancing the name of the Law School and providing educational opportunities to alumni and friends.

We hope to provide our alums with more information about some of the innovations occurring at our Law School. In this issue of the *Bill of Particulars*, we focus on practicing law from the global perspective. Whether one is a partner with a major Chicago law firm, a Justice on the Indiana Supreme Court or teaching Communications Law at this Law School, the era of globalization and the importance of international law is ever-present. In future issues, we shall highlight other aspects of the rich curriculum that exist at this school and the important scholarship and teaching underway.

Also included in this issue is the 1996 Report of Donors to the Law School. In addition to recognizing donors to the Annual Fund, we have taken this opportunity to recognize the many wonderful gifts we have received as a part of our Capital Campaign, as well.

Thank you for your continued support of this Law School.

Sincerely,



Alfred C. Aman, Jr.
Dean and Professor of Law

